



join them for the ceremony and the grand tour.

Sunset Watch

Pahokee will be sponsoring another Sunset Watch on March 25. You'll enjoy listening to a professional square dance caller and watching the dancers as they go through their paces. For more information, call Barbara Branch, chair at 924-5633 or Shirley Jarriel at 924-6332. Vendors are welcome. There is no charge for this event.

Applications for Black Gold events

Numerous activities are planned for the 2000 Black Gold Jubilee.

Anyone needing an application for the tennis tournament, volleyball, arts and crafts booths, Little Mr. and Miss Black Gold, the Photography Contest, parade, 5K Walk/Run, Children's Fishing contest, or any other event can pick one up at the Belle Glade Chamber of Commerce.

For more information, call the Chamber at 996-2745 or Jubilee Chair Carl Seibert at 993-3343.

NCAA Game Breaker 2000 Tournament

The Glades Festival of Arts presents its first Game Breaker 2000 Tournament.

The committee is seeking the best Sony PlayStation gamers to participate. The tournament will take place on Saturday, March 18. Registration fee is \$20 and the deadline to enter the competition is March 11.

For information or to register, contact Albert Harper III at 924-5282 or Lawanda Everett at 924-3126.

Booth space available for Black Gold Jubilee

Vendor booth applications are now being accepted for the 2000 Black Gold Jubilee to be held April 15. Applications may be obtained from the Belle Glade Chamber of Commerce or by calling 993-3343.

The deadline for applications is March 31, 2000.

Class of 1981 event

The Class of 1981 from Glades Central will host "Pajamas Jam" Saturday, March 18 at Club 21, 1533 N.W. Avenue L, Belle Glade. The event begins at 9 p.m. and admission is \$5.

The class will also be hosting

a meeting on Sunday, March 5 at Pioneer Park at 4 p.m. for class members and everyone is invited. For more information, call 996-4313.

Before Care program at Boys & Girls Club

The Belle Glade Teen Club announces the start up of a Middle School Before Care program. Staff members will be available to provide a safe, positive place for children at the Teen Club located at Lake Shore Civic Center for students ages 11-14.

Care will be provided from 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and the cost is \$10 per child, which includes a free trip to the Rapids.

For additional information, please contact Ken Funderburk at 992-5399.

Children's Day 2000 in the Glades

In conjunction with the "Week of the Young Child" April 9-15, there will be a Children's Day 2000 in the Glades on Friday, April 14 at Rardin Park in Belle Glade.

Special guest will be Ronald McDonald and a live concert performance by "Ms. Maggie." There will also be a bounce house and games for the children.

Church opening

Pastor Fred G. Gamble and Sister Patricia Gamble and the church family invite everyone to attend the dedication service for True Vine Church on March 19 at 4 p.m. The church is located at 2100 10th Street and Carolina Ave, Clewiston in Harlem.

For more information please call 863-983-7495.

West Tech adult evening registration

Registration for the fourth term, adult evening classes at West Technical Education Center will run through the week of March 21. Registration hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday in the school office.

For further information, call 996-4930.

Founder's Day at Shiloh Missionary Baptist

The entire community is invited to fellowship on March 19 at 11 a.m. at Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church in Pahokee with the Gladstones Ebonique Ladies Club members during their Founder's Day.

The guest speaker will be Mrs.

Dorothy E. Harrelle. The theme is "A Call to Duty."

Several musical selections will be rendered by the church choir. The Founder's Day Program coordinator is Delores Maxey. The pastor of Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church is Rev. Larry White.

Bingo every Tuesday
The Pahokee Elks Lodge, East Main Street, offers bingo every Tuesday evening at 7 p.m. at the Lodge.

For more information call the Lodge.

Free and reduced meals for children

The Wee Care Child Development Center offers free or reduced lunches to children at their center located at 209 S.W. 10th Street, Belle Glade.

The program is offered through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's "Child and Adult Care Food Program".

For more information contact the center.

Applications being accepted for PEPPi Head Start

PEPPi Head Start, 200 Southwest 9th Street, Belle Glade, is now accepting applications for three and four year olds for the 1999-2000 school year.

There is no cost and children with disabilities are welcomed. For more information call 996-1718.

Alzheimer's/Dementia Caregiver Support

Families who are dealing with a loved one with

Alzheimer's/Dementia can find support from the Alzheimer's/Dementia Caregiver Support Group. The meetings are held the second Tuesday of every month from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at the Pahokee Civic Center.

For more information call Sandy Moore at 924-7283.

Community Awards

The Glades Community Development Corporation will be having Community Awards on Monday, March 20 at noon.

Anyone who would like to attend can RSVP to GDC at 992-9500.

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Spring Event

Tire Amnesty Days

Saturday, March 18 and Sunday, March 19, 2000
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Free Tire Disposal

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• Limit 8 tires per household

• Available to Palm Beach County residents only

• Florida driver's license and zip code and/or other proof of Palm Beach County residency required

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North of 45th Street on Jog Rd

For more information, call the Solid Waste Authority at 697-2700 or 930-2727 (toll free). If you live within a city, village or town limits, please check with your public works department for additional drop-off locations.

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USA

Study shows Ritalin prescriptions increasing for very young children



American children may have more drug problems than most people realize.

A February edition of the Journal of the American Medical Association published the results of a study on the use of Ritalin to treat Attention Deficit Disorder or Attention Hyperactive Disorder in children, commonly called ADD or ADHD. The study, which was based on Medicaid

HMO prescription records, showed a 300 percent increase in the number of Ritalin prescriptions written for children ages two to four.

The use of Ritalin to treat ADD is still controversial in itself. Part of the problem is that ADD is diagnosed strictly based on the child's behavior. There is no blood or other physical test to determine if a child suffers from ADD.

The use of Ritalin on very young children may well be a cause for concern. Think about it. How could you possibly tell if a two-year-old has ADD? A normal two-year-old spends most of his time running around

n't partake. He tried some water, but back it came. He tried swallowing hard. No change.

The triage nurse at the Ocean's Hospital ER saw Henry walk into the waiting room, and motioned for him to sit in her chair.

"Hi. What can we do for you?"

Henry, still perturbed that he had missed that great meal he had planned, and still embarrassed at having left his dinner guests so abruptly, told his story to the triage nurse. She nodded understandingly.

"So I think that steak is still stuck down here." Henry admitted, touching his chest with both hands.

By now, the nurse had completed taking Henry's vital signs, and had all of the information she needed.

"Come with me."

Henry sat on the ER bed for only a few minutes before the emergency physician arrived.

"Hi, Henry. Dr. Tammy Cortez shook his hand. She asked several more questions.

"No, Doc, this has never happened before," Henry claimed, but then did admit to having "a little heartburn once" in a while.

Henry, it sure sounds like that steak is lodged down at the bottom of your esophagus. It could be that you have a lit-

ter narrowing there, and that's where this got hung up." Cortez raised her eyebrows and Henry nodded in agreement. Then, after listening to his heart and lungs and peering into his mouth, she continued.

"We can try a couple medications to see if we can get it to pass. But, if that doesn't work, we'll have to get the gastroenterologist to go down there with a scope to open it."

A nurse had placed an IV line in Henry's arm, and the promised medication was delivered.

Henry waited. Minutes passed, and he still felt that dull pressure. He wretched a couple more times. He tried to swallow, but ended up spitting his saliva into a basin. More time passed. No change.

When Cortez returned with a "how-did-it-go?" look on her face, Henry scrunched up his lips and shook his head slowly side to side.

"I'll get the gastroenterologist to help us out, Henry."

The frustration was quite evident on Henry's face.

Within the hour, Henry's ER bed was being wheeled through a door labeled "G.I. Lab," and another nurse was explaining what was about to be done to him.

"So, you'll give me something to put my out before you stick that thing down my throat?"

"Yes, Henry. You'll be real

comfortable. And, when you wake up later, you probably won't remember a thing about this."

Henry looked around his bed and sighed. He was thinking about that wonderful steak that he had missed. He could almost smell it.

The nurse interrupted his daydream.

"OK, Henry, here we go night-night."

Obstructions of the lower end of the esophagus occur from a variety of causes, including strictures caused by acid reflux from the stomach, fibrous "Schatzki's ring" encircling the esophagus, and esophageal cancers.

These Schatzki's rings are a common problem, and may also be related to acid reflux. Often, a person may have a few episodes of temporary obstruction before developing one that persists, and swallowing what is frequently the precipitating event.

Structures and rings can

be dilated by a gastroenterologist using an endoscope passed into the esophagus, and most of these are benign processes.

Cancers occur in the esophagus of 10,000 people in the USA each year, and about that many die each year of this malignancy. Median survival is less than one year.

Dr. Stauffer, an emergency physician in New Smyrna Beach, is a member of the Florida College of Emergency Physicians. www.fcep.org

search for "Feingold Diet" or "ADHD."

Dr. Feingold's book is available from your public library. If you are interested in non-drug therapy for ADD, Diana Hunter's book, "The Ritalin-Free Child," is also a good source of information.

Before making any changes in your child's diet, make sure you check with your child's doctor. This is especially important if the child is taking any prescription medications. Some drugs interact badly with foods that would otherwise be considered "healthy."

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The Heart of Healthcare in the Glades

OPINION PAGE

Feel strongly about local issues?



The Sun

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Speak Out is our 24-hour opinion line.

Call 996-6636 to express your opinions or ask questions about public issues. You are not required to give your name. While we want you to speak out freely, the newspaper reserves the right to edit calls for clarity, brevity, relevance and fairness.

Civic Center closure

"Hi: In your article on the front page of Thursday, March 9 it says 'Belle Glade raises costs on numerous user fees' in the third column it says the Belle Glade Civic Center is currently closed for renovations.

There have been activities at the Belle Glade Civic Center all along. I don't believe that's correct.

Thank you."

Editor's note: Current clubs and organizations who are using the Belle Glade Civic Center are going to be permitted to use the facility until the end of March. According to the Belle Glade Recreation Center, the Civic Center is not being rented for other functions until the renovations are completed. All organizations now using the facility will have to stop after March 31. Bobbie Mathis with the Recreation Department said this is why voters cannot come to the center for the Primary Election.

Thank you for Speaking Out."

She's outta here

"I read in the Palm Beach Post in the opinion section, everything you hear that concerns taxpayer money goes to the city of Palm Beach. Well, Belle Glade is in that county. Who wants to drive 50 miles to sit in these new parks, roads, libraries etc. Belle Glade has bad streets and roads 715 and 441 are so rough it will in time make a wreck of the new cars? I know the sugar trucks don't help."

Just like the South Bay RV. That was a waste. I've watched and can't see how they make ends meet or even pay the help. Waste.

For myself I will be out of here with my

family in two months. It's just getting too high for a mere working person to live here. Everything has gone up except the pay."

Get cars off the street

"I would like to know why a church in Pahokee has their cars parked on the side of the road and when you're going up the street you cannot see anything and it almost caused an accident. They need to find somewhere to park. They're blocking the sidewalk. Thank you."

Occupational licenses

"I'm calling in reference to Pahokee. I would like to know why you have to pay \$300 for an occupational license. Some of them do and some of them don't. And that's not fair to the ones that are paying the occupational license and city license. Because you go up through some stores they don't have a license to serve, and somebody like us are paying the \$300 and they should be able to pay it. It's not fair and I would like an answer to that question."

Spoiled food?

"I would like to make a complaint about a restaurant that serves the people because they cook spoiled food and they have really bad rodents. Thanks."

Note: If you believe a restaurant is serving spoiled food, or has sanitation problems, you can call the Department of Business and Professional Regulations, Hotel and Restaurant Division, to register a complaint. The number is 1-800-532-3287.

About letters

To voice your opinion about Glades issues, or to respond favorably or unfavorably to articles printed in the paper, we encourage you to write us a letter. Send to:

The Sun

417 N.W. 16th Street #6, Belle Glade, FL 33430

Editors note: The POLICE NEWS in this newspaper lists arrests, not convictions, unless otherwise stated. Arrested persons who later are found not guilty or have had the charges against them dropped are welcome to let us know. We will confirm the information and print it.

The Sun

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- ✓ To operate this newspaper as a public trust.
- ✓ To help our community become a better place to live and work, through our dedication to conscientious journalism.
- ✓ To provide the information citizens need to make their own decisions about public issues.
- ✓ To report the news with honesty, accuracy, purposeful neutrality, fairness, objectivity, fearlessness and compassion.
- ✓ To use our opinion pages to facilitate community debate, not to dominate it with our own opinions.
- ✓ To correct our errors, and to give each correction the prominence it deserves.
- ✓ To provide a right to reply to those about whom we write.
- ✓ To treat people with courtesy, respect and compassion.



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UF team helping to create solar cells thinner than human hair

By Aaron Hoover
University of Florida News

University of Florida engineers are pioneering an inexpensive method for making a new breed of exceptionally thin and cheap solar cells designed to make solar power a more widespread source of electricity in the new millennium.

The cells, known as "thin-film solar cells," are 100 times thinner and potentially lighter than today's silicon cells. They also require less semiconductor materials, an attribute that opens the door for the cells to be made cheaply and in great quantity.

"The material cost is very minimal," said Sheng Li, a UF professor of electrical and computer engineering and part of a four-member UF faculty team at work on the process. "This is a very promising technology for solar cells."

The UF research comes at a time when the market for solar cells is in a strong growth spurt. For the past several years, the industry has an annual growth rate of 15 to 20 percent, similar to that of the booming semiconductor and computer industries. Total sales reached the \$1 billion mark in 1998, according to industry publications.

Solar cells' advantage is that they produce "green" power without harmful emissions. Also, they can generate power for a house or small business on site, reducing electrical demand on power plants and electrical grids.

Traditional silicon cells, however, require relatively large amounts of semiconducting materials, making them expensive to manufacture and driving up their cost in the marketplace. They are also heavy and unwieldy, limiting their potential applications, Li said.

The UF researchers hope to get around these problems through the thin-film cells, which can be created with "pennies' worth" of materials on flexible surfaces such as plastic. Where traditional solar cells use wafers similar to computer chips, thin film cells use thin layers of semiconductor material. Thin-film cells, however, have a far more complex chemical structure and are more difficult to make than traditional cells, attributes that have limited their production

and commercialization to date.

Scientists and engineers at more than a dozen universities, government labs and corporations are exploring several different thin-film solar cell technologies as part of a major initiative sponsored by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, a government lab that seeks to develop renewable energy technologies and improve energy efficiency.

The UF team, part of the "Thin Film Partnership program," is focusing on a technology that uses a compound semiconductor called "copper indium diselenide," or "CIS."

The technology involved depositing an extremely thin layer of CIS on a specially prepared material such as glass, Li said. Two to 3 microns thick, the semiconductor layer is thinner than a human hair and 100 times thinner than conventional solar cells, he said.

Researchers elsewhere have demonstrated CIS cells can convert as much as 18 percent of sunlight to electricity, about the efficiency of the most efficient traditional silicon cells, according to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. But there still are major challenges to overcome in manufacturing the cells.

"They have a more complicated structure and require more complicated processing," said Tim Anderson, chairman of the UF chemical engineering department and member of the CIS team. "Our role is to better understand the processing and transfer the technology to industry."

The UF team also is experimenting with ways to simplify the manufacturing process, Li said. Three years into the six-year project, the team has used a simpler, cheaper process to make CIS cells with efficiencies in the range of 8 to 10 percent, good progress toward the project's goal of 13 to 15 percent efficiency, Li said. He added that he expects CIS cells to be widely available on the market in less than 10 years.

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory is providing about \$1.6 million for the research. The other UF team members are Paul Holloway, a professor of materials science and engineering, and Oscar Crisalle, an associate professor of chemical engineering.

Looking back...



This bank photo was taken almost 30 years ago in Belle Glade. Do you recognize any of the people in the photo?

Glades Ebonique Ladies Club elects officers

The Glades Ebonique Ladies Club elected officers at a recent club meeting.

The officers for the next two years are as follows: President, Mary Pringle; Vice President, Carolyn Brown; Secretary, Margaret Edwards; Treasurer, Gloria Atkins; Chaplain, Eva

Harris, Parliamentarian Ruby Johnson and Historian Alma Mormon.

Many activities have been planned for the upcoming year. At the February club meeting, members decided on an outing in March and to have a social at the Cheesecake Factory in Boca Raton.

The club purchased over fifty items (socks, hair combs, brushes and toiletry items) which were donated to patients at the Glades Nursing Health Care facility in Pahokee. These items were delivered after the February meeting.

Pahokee participates in the Great American Cleanup 2000

Once again it's time for the Great American Cleanup and Pahokee is gearing up for a great response. Keep Palm Beach County Beautiful is furnishing beautiful t-shirts to anyone who will come and help out. Workers began cleaning the streets and sidewalks on Monday and will continue through next week.

"While we realize cleanup is an everyday thing and not just once a year, this major thrust will help to clean the areas that don't always get the attention they need. We are so pleased that GCI, Florida

Department of Transportation the Eagle Academy and the Okeechobee Youth Conservation Group are willing to help us make our city beautiful," said Barbara Branch, Cleanup Chair.

Tire Amnesty Days are Saturday and Sunday, March 18 and 19. There is no charge to get rid of old tires from residential neighborhoods.

Bring any old tires to the corner of South Lake and East Main or call Mrs. Branch, 924-6633, Shirley Jarriel, 924-6332, or the City Manager, 924-6534 to arrange for pick up.

Everyone is invited to help make Pahokee beautiful. Join us on Saturday, March 18 at 8 a.m. in front of the Chamber of Commerce, 115 East Main Street, to participate and receive your t-shirt.

If you are unable to come down on Saturday, check with Mrs. Branch at 924-6633 if you would like to help anything through next week.

"If everyone would keep their own yard and neighborhood clean, this annual cleanup would be a piece of cake!" concluded Mrs. Branch.

CRIME STOPPERS



Louis Cabero Ortiz

Crime Stoppers of Palm Beach County, Inc., is asking citizens to help locate **Louis Cabero Ortiz** who is wanted for failure to appear on charges of burglary of a dwelling and dealing in stolen property. He is also wanted for violation of probation on charges of domestic battery. Ortiz is a white male, 5'7" tall, and weighs 160 pounds. He has black hair and brown eyes and tattoos on his right arm. His date of birth is December 12, 1962. His last known address was 4971 Pimlico Court, West Palm Beach. His Social Security number is unknown and his last occupation was as a painter. His warrant was active as of March 7, 2000.

If you know the whereabouts of **Louis Cabero Ortiz**, or anyone involved in a serious crime, call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-458-8477. You can remain anonymous and still receive a cash reward if your tip leads to an arrest.

Arrest Blotters

Editor's note: The police news on this page lists arrests, not convictions, unless otherwise stated. Arrested persons who later are found not guilty or have had the charges against them dropped are welcome to let us know. We will confirm the information and print it.

BELLE GLADE

The Belle Glade Police Department handled 634 complaints and gave 89 traffic citations the week of March 6-12.

Those arrested included:

March 6 - No arrests made.

March 7 - Patricia Coleman, 32, burglary of a residence, resisting arrest with violence and battery on a law enforcement officer; **Juvenile**, 16, retail theft; **Tavares Martin**, 25, contempt of court; **Rodney King**, 20, resisting an officer with violence.

March 8 - Joe McGhee Sr., 64, possession of narcotics; **Willie Pierce**, 47, warrants for forged and grand theft and charges of possession of cocaine.

March 9 - Anthony Billings, 38, retail theft and resisting arrest with violence; **Corey Burroughs**, 30, failure to appear.

March 10 - No arrests made.

March 11 - Michael Chemecale Sr., 37, battery; Sonnie Vixama, 24, domestic battery; **Juvenile**, 17, retail theft; **James Rolland**, 54, dealing in stolen property and possession of narcotics; **Franckis West**, 37, domestic assault; **Robert Henderson**, 38, gambling with dice; **Juvenile**, 16, warrant for aggravated battery with a deadly weapon.

March 12 - **Juvenile**, 17, contempt of court on charges of battery, six counts of failure to appear on traffic citations and two contempt of court charges for obstruction by a disguised person and obstruction without violence; **Raul Gamez**, 28, driving under the influence; **Manuel Flores**, 31, leaving the scene of an accident with bodily injury; **Westly Dore**, 25, retail theft; **Maurice Pittman**, 29, violation of probation.

SOUTH BAY

The South Bay Police Department made 15 arrests the week of March 5-11.

Those arrested included:

March 5 - **Raymundo Vickers**, 37, battery; **John F. Davidson**, 28, habitual offender for driving without a driver's license; **Trisha R. Bolley**, 23, possession of marijuana under 20 grams.

March 6 - Carlton Antonio Turner, 29, warrant for aggravated battery.

March 7 - **Willie Britt**, 25, warrant for violation of probation; **Jason K. Teele**, 25, possession of marijuana under 20 grams and possession of drug paraphernalia.

March 8 - **Euphernia Dennard**, 20, warrant for fraud for insufficient funds.

March 9 - No arrests made.

March 10 - **Marvin Dixon**, 43, resisting arrest without violence, possession of cocaine and possession of drug paraphernalia; **Dontae L. Moore**, 21, possession of marijuana under

PAHOKEE

The Pahokee Police Department handled 187 calls, issued 17 traffic citations and made 7 arrests the week of March 6-12.

Those arrested included:

March 6 - **James Atterberry**, 60, aggravated battery.

March 7 - **Juvenile**, 16, possession of marijuana under 20 grams; **Jose Saucedo**, 18, possession of marijuana under 20 grams; **Juvenile**, 17, cruelty to animals.

March 8 - **Sherick McKelton**, 23, two warrants.

March 9 - No arrests made.

March 10 - No arrests made.

March 11 - **Isaac Smith**, 30, burglary to a structure; **Gilberto Navarro**, 25, burglary and domestic assault.

March 12 - No arrests made.

PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

The Palm Beach County Sheriff's made 9 arrests the week of March 8-14.

Those arrested included:

March 8 - **Curtis Lee Rodgers**, 37, Jackson, Miss., warrant of commitment child support; **Michael Williams**, 29, Pahokee, domestic battery; **Sherick McKelton**, 23, Pahokee, warrant for false imprisonment, domestic battery, burglary of dwelling, aggravated stalking and obstruction without violence.

March 10 - **Felix Matis**, 22, Belle Glade, warrant for failure to appear driving while license suspended, violation of restriction, speeding and failure to use due care; **Jason Lemarvin Johnson**, 26, Pahokee, unlawful possession of a controlled substance.

March 12 - **William Walker Jr.**, 23, Belle Glade, affray and resisting without violence; **Keo Green**, 24, Pahokee, affray, throwing a deadly missile and resisting without violence; **Lisa Ernestine Willis**, 34, Pahokee, simple battery domestic; **Kendrick Domain Williams**, 23, Pahokee, assault domestic, manufacture of a hoax device; **Jerry Field**, 39, Clewiston, felony driving while license suspended.

March 13 - No arrests.

March 14 - **Mario D. Brooks**, 20, Pahokee, carrying a concealed weapon.

Cosmetology to be offered at West Tech

The Academy of Cosmetology will be offered at West Technical Education Center during the 2000-2001 school year. This academy is an opportunity for high school students to train for a variety of careers in the field of cosmetology and salon services. Instruction is designed to qualify students to

take the Florida Cosmetology license examination. Emphasis is on manicures, pedicures, hair styling, cutting, wigs/hair extensions, and facials. Content includes human relation skills, employability skills, safe and efficient work practices, Florida cosmetology law and HIV-AIDS. Upon success-

ful completion, students will be prepared for employment as licensed hairdressers and cosmetologists or to work in a variety of related fields, and will be awarded a college-ready diploma.

For more information, call West Technical Education Center at 996-4930.

Forty-nine people struck by lightning last year



Mike Lyons

On this day, however, Edwin Robinson never heard that clucking sound. As he walked under a popular tree he was knocked face-down on the ground by a bolt of lightning. He later told friends that it felt "like somebody cracked a whip over my head."

For twenty minutes, Robinson lay unconscious under the tree. When he woke up he felt confused and very tired. He wanted to take a nap. When Edwin Robinson got up from his nap he was a changed man. For the first time in nine years, he could see again, he could hear again and he was growing hair again on his bald head.

It is an extraordinary tale. Here was a man who not only was struck by lightning and survived but actually benefited from it. Unfortunately, Edwin Robinson's story is one in a billion.

In most cases, victims of lightning are just lucky to be alive. And in Florida during 1999 we had too many lucky people. The National Weather Service reports 49 people were struck by lightning last year. Five of those victims were killed.

In the last 40 years, 34 people have been killed by lightning in our area alone, with dozens more victims around the state. 1994 was a particularly deadly year. The National Weather Service reports 128 people were struck by lightning in 1994, breaking the old record of 108 in 1991.

The average number of persons struck by lightning each year in the state is 40. On average, eight people are killed by lightning.

(Mike Lyons is the chief weather forecaster for WPBF-TV)



IN THE UNITED STATES — 1922 WAS THE YEAR THAT:

- Warren G. Harding was President
- The nation's population passed 100 Million
- The Dow Jones reached 100
- Average annual earnings averaged \$1,000

1922 was also the year First Community Bank was founded. Our first location was in Pahokee where we were known as the Bank of Pahokee. We've grown, but we haven't changed the way we do business. We're still a home-owned and home-operated independent bank. We're still dedicated to providing friendly personal service to the families and businesses of Western Palm Beach County. It's been that way for 78 years.



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Cat Talk

from Gove Elementary



Winter Achievement Awards

The following students were recognized for their achievements during a recent awards program held March 10: **Kindergarten:** Nicholas Lesley, Martin Gallegos, Kara Roberts, Ana Sanchez, Jalal Kaki, Krysta Arroyo, Keyshya Rhett; **First grade:** Yarley Vasallo, Karly Redd, Lionel Reyes, Lucia Solis, Krista Gutierrez, Jarmal Desire, Stephanie Quintao, Brittany Santos, Graham Johnson, Eric Esparza, Marile Quintana; **Second grade:** Bertha Rodriguez, Heriberto Rodriguez, Yamina Loiz, Matthew Roberta, Mirasha Brown, Martha Jaimes, Emely Pope, Yaneta Acosta, German Calas, Cynthia Cardenas, Jaclyn Garza, Annette Silva; **Third grade:** Carmen Nunez, Daniel Fullwood, Danielle Edgecomb, Emily Spotts, Nuba Abraham, Kimberly Kitterell, Thomas Martinez, Jose Rodriguez, Lucia Almiquer, Wael Kaki, Kierra Wilson, Alejandro Albo, Patrick Billings, Lawrenthia Shirley, Jarrett Swaby, Dairent Beavers, Kathleen Johnson, Matthew Lowell, Amany Mashni, Lissette Mora, Mercedes Powers, Vanessa Varela, Javier Almazan, Michelle Priest, Nicholas Alonso, Aleigh Miller, Vincent Harper, Miya Police; **Fourth grade:** Brandy Cooper, Jessica Bryant, Lutis Matias, Laura Perez, Cristal Monroy, Von Smith, Alex Williams, Sergio Zabala, Wismick Lemene, Vionni Brown, Tiara Wilson, Melvin Stewart, Jammin Billings, Eddie Poole, Selomir Vargas, Christopher Desearan, Richard Johnson, Maher Mashed, Lethacha Myers, Jessica Hand, E.L. Pope, Alejandra Delgado, Ramon Pacheco, Joshua Huston, Kayla Collier, Cynthia Orsenigo, Jimmie Arnold, Erin McCarthy, Mirella Cuyam, Katie Miller, Rashad Derico, Viviana Vera, Judy Chancey, Jaime Oliva, Amelia Gutierrez, Jessica Hand, Janika Johnson, Antonius Williams; **Fifth grade:** Casey Gilbert, Manuel Flores, Mayra Vital, Jessica Marrero, Omar Palonio, Willenea Dennard, Javoris Dowell, Luke Woodham, Leukavia Hudson, Stephanie Kirchman, Jamesia Worthy, Enjoli Sardas, Yorase Garcia, Carolynne Courtney, Andres Roa, Yury Alonso, Chris Alexander, Steven Jackson, Teresa Ruiz, Lacquinetta Smith, Jeanette Almazan, Hiba Ramahi, Sandy Joseph, Tranquila Golden, Wayne Johnson, Elvira Hernandez, Miguel Velasco, Lloyd Monds, Reyna Vital, Dalal Shalabi, Christina Ruiz, Amanda Roman, Josue Solis, Javarus Tillman, Gion Jackson; **Sixth grade:** Jesus Garza, Nalley Juarez, Maranda Buchanan, Carlos Villatoro, Amanda Mashni, J.C. Cavazos, Adriana Flores, Courtney Wright, Shalonda Williams, Sylvia Lott, Corshea Haslen, Clarence Anthony, Josie Almazan, Amanda Martinez, Heather Hedrick, Aaron Waldon, James Towell, Christian Gonzalez and Lucinda Adelson.

Upcoming events

3/20-No School

3/21-Parent, Child and Literacy, 6 p.m.

3/21-Spanish and English Classes, 5 p.m.

Four Glades teachers receive mini-grants

Four area teachers were among nineteen throughout Palm Beach County to receive mini grants from the Education Foundation of Palm Beach County during an awards presentation held at the Feb. 16 school board meeting. School district board members, staff, principals and teachers and Education Foundation staff and board members were all on hand to recognize grant winners in support of their original, innovative projects.

Glades area teachers receiving awards include:

- Linda Balletti, Belle Glade Elementary
- Janet R. Janke, Glade View

Elementary

- Linda Parody and Jennifer Towell, Pioneer Park Elementary.

The mini-grant program is administered by the Education Foundation of Palm Beach County which invests money from the sale of specialty license tags in classroom projects, teacher recognition and other education programs. For each education specialty license tag that is sold in Palm Beach County, \$15 is donated to the Education Foundation to support educational programs. Cash awards range up to \$1,000 for individual grants and \$2,000 for team grants.

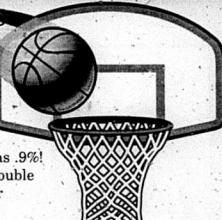
The Education Foundation of Palm Beach County is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization dedicated to promoting effective education practices through public-private partnerships, community collaboration and private sector resources. Its vision is high achievement by all students in Palm Beach County public schools.

The Foundation accepts applications for its mini-grant program three times a year, and all Palm Beach County teachers are eligible to apply.

For more information, contact Leah Downing at (561) 357-7659.

It's MARCH MADNESS here at Steve Moore AutoNation of Belle Glade!

Drive the lane-and score some major savings! We are slam dunking the competition with interest rates as low as 9%. Rebound from high payments, don't double dribble! Travel on out to the country for some home court hospitality!



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Loaded, Tilt-Cruise, P. Windows & Locks, Dual A/C, Keyless Entry.
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Mrs. Davis' Pre-K-3 class at Glades Day School celebrates with an ice cream party for collecting the most Box-Tops for Education in the contest sponsored by the Elementary Student Council. The class total collected was \$53.

Lakeshore Middle School News in brief

Lakeshore celebrates cultural diversity

Lake Shore Middle School students celebrated cultural diversity during the week of Feb. 21-25. The student were allowed to reflect and reassess our troubled and triumphant past through a variety of activities: Opening Day Ceremony (Queen of Various Lands), Soul Food Luncheon, Scavenger Hunt, Collegiate Day, Dramatic Presentation and a Cultural Arts Festival. Thanks to all the students/staff that worked very hard to make this endeavor a success. Mrs. JoAnn Finney, chairperson, Mrs. Helen R. Rutledge, principal.

Spring Break in the Big Apple

Members of Lake Shore Middle School National Junior Honor Society and FCCLA will spend their Spring Break in New York. The students will visit Radio City Music Hall, ABC Good Morning America, Madison Square Garden, the Empire State Building, NASDAQ Market, Trump Towers, Warner Brothers, Sony Wonder Technology Lab, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, Rockefeller Center, browse along the famous 5th Avenue and many more exciting sites. The students will leave March 12, and return to Bell Glade March 16. Mrs. JoAnn Finney is the Adviser of NJHS and Mrs. Fleeta Jackson is the advisor of FCCLA.

Lake Shore students takes second in State Academic Games

Lontay Finney an eighth grade student at Lake Shore Middle School competed in the State Academic Game competition held Saturday March 4 at Palm Beach Gardens. Students throughout the state participated in Math, Propaganda, Linguistics and Social Studies. Again, congratulations for a job well done! Mrs. Fleet Jackson, Academic Games Coach.

Grove earns free technology from A+ America program

Grove Elementary School has accumulated 43,465 points from the A+America Free Technology for Schools Program, earning a Thinking Things Collection III prize.

BIC Consumer Products, maker of the top-selling ballpoint pen in

the U.S. has partnered with A+ America in a commitment to help our nation's schools by donating a percentage of their sales to school technology budgets.

The A+ America Free Technology for Schools program helps any K-12 school earn educa-

tional technology by collecting receipts or other proof-of-purchase from sponsoring companies. Receipts and UPC codes can be turned in at Grove and redeem for prizes. For more information about the A+ program, call 800-296-9469 ext. 236.

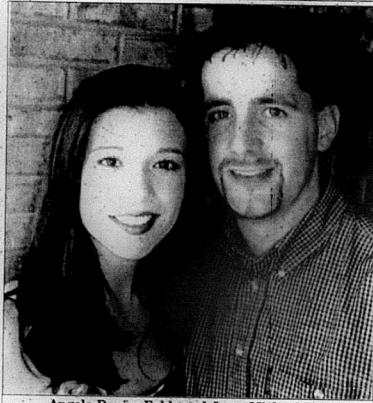
Pahokee Rotary Club receives Chamber award

The Pahokee Rotary Club received the "You Made a Difference" award for the month of March from the Pahokee Chamber of Commerce at the breakfast held recently at the Pahokee Medical Clinic. The club was instrumental in the distribution of tons of food and supplies immediately following Hurricane Irene.

"The club is extremely involved in our community and the Chamber is pleased to present this recognition to them," said Alice Thompson, Executive Secretary/Director of the Chamber.



Pahokee Rotary Club President Sgt. Ken Law and Elizabeth Cayson, vice president, are shown accepting the award from the Pahokee Chamber of Commerce.



Angela Denise Folds and Jerry Michael Fox

Folds-Fox to wed

Angela Denice Folds of her bachelor's degree from Mercer University in Macon, Ga., and a master's degree in Christian counseling from the Reformed Theological Seminary. She is employed as a freelance writer.

The groom is a graduate of the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine and is employed as a veterinarian at Animal Medical Services in Hudson.

The double ring ceremony

will be conducted by her father, Rev. Folds and Rev. Watt Folds.

The bride elect received

Glades Boy Scout executive visits Texas headquarters

Boy Scout Glades Senior District Executive Alaska McElroy returned to her regular duties Monday, March 12, following a trip to Irving, Texas, the National Boy Scouts of America headquarters near Dallas.

The new district executive embraced the opportunity to spend a week with other professional Scouting, sharing ideas, problem solving, brainstorming and networking.

The Gulf Stream Council, Boy Scouts of America brought Ms. McElroy on board last September. Her responsibilities include recruiting and training volunteers, organizing the annual Friends of Scouting fundraising campaign and starting new Cub Scout packs, Boy Scout Troops, Venturing Crews, Explorer Posts and Learning for Life groups for the Glades District. The Glades District covers the areas including Belle Glade, Canal Point, Clewiston, Moore Haven, Pahokee and South Bay.

About her experiences in Texas in professional development, Ms. McElroy said, "I am excited about all the inventive ideas I heard at professional development level III this week and hope to begin implementing many of them with the help of my volunteers."

For more information on Scouting in the Glades, phone (561) 694-5856.

Obituary

Betty Lee Bigford, 58, of Bentonia, formerly of Pahokee, died Feb. 2, 2000 at her residence. She is survived by her husband, James Henry "Jim" Bigford of Bentonia; a daughter, Le Anne McGinty of Zayo City; her mother, Geneva A. Yancy of Pahokee; a sister Shirley Echols of Belle Glade and a brother, Larry Anderson of South Bay.

Funeral services were held Thursday, Feb. 5 at the Stricklin-King Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Dr. Clifton Perkins officiating. Burial followed at Central Holmes Cemetery in Bentonia.

Juanita Angeles Wilson, 95, of West Palm Beach; formerly of Belle Glade and South Bay, died Tuesday, Feb. 29, 2000. A native of Bayamon, Puerto Rico she came to the US with the Red Cross after a hurricane in 1927. She founded the first Belle Glade PTA and was a business woman, landlord, grocer, seamstress and insurance agent. Mrs. Wilson operated a Foster Care Home for 25 years, was the first African American to run for South Bay Council and worked for the first Head Start program for the Community Action Council in Palm Beach County. She was preceded in death by her husband Charles C. Wilson Sr. in 1982.

She is survived by a son, Charles C. Wilson II of West Palm Beach, a goddaughter, Donna Parrish of Miami; three grandchildren, two great grandchildren and other relatives.

Funeral services were held March 4 at the Hurst Chapel AME Church, Riviera Beach.

Belle Glade sailor Jason Mills assists with ship upgrade in San Diego

By J.L. Chirrik

As the USS Stethem (DDG 63) pulled into the naval shipyard, Jason S. Mills and other Sailors aboard the ship made their final preparations for the two-month maintenance period that lay ahead.

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Mills, the 25-year-old son of Josephine Frazier of Belle Glade, says time in the shipyard is vital to the well being of everyone on the ship.

"With the change in technology, it allows us time to upgrade, which ultimately improves our ability to communicate," said Mills, a 1993 graduate of Glades Central Community High School.

On Jan. 4, Mills helped to bring the 505-ft. Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer into dock at the Continental Maritime San Diego Shipyard. There, the ship will receive upgrades and repairs to increase its overall capabilities. Modifications were expected to be completed this week.

The Stethem can conduct prompt, sustained combat operations from the sea either independently or in support of carrier bat-



Jason S. Mills

de groups or amphibious ready groups, protecting these ships from attack and project power ashore.

Working as an information systems technician aboard the Stethem, Mills says his job of operating and maintaining global satellite telecommunications systems has changed during this upkeep period.

The six-year Navy veteran says, "My job is now more focused on preserving the equipment that is now being upgraded."

Upon completion of the shipyard period, Mills and his shipmates will again be ready to head out to sea, more capable to handle the challenges of the 21st century.

Pearson graduates from basic training

Air Force Airman 1st Class Jason S. Pearson has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio.

Foley seeks summer interns

U.S. Representative Mark A. Foley (R-FL) has announced that he is now accepting applications for summer internships in his Washington, D.C. office.

The internships will allow students to gain hands-on experience while learning about the legislative process and the operations of a congressional office.

The internships are unpaid, vary in length and are open to all college aged students. Interested applicants should contact Rep. Foley's Washington office at (202) 225-5792 to receive an application.



Jason S. Pearson

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**Includes first payment, security deposit & initial license.

*Based on 48 month lease, we supply only the vehicle, you pay all taxes, license, maintenance and insurance. Lease restricted to applicants with qualifying credit. Rate based on 140,000 miles (30,000 per year). \$0.15 a mile charge thereafter—offer expires 03/31/2000.

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NEW BEGINNINGS HOLY CHURCH

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Four Glades teachers nominated for Dwyer awards

Editors note: Four Glades area teachers are among 24 finalists in the Economic Council's William Dwyer Awards for Excellence in Education. They are: Deborah Clarke of Rosenwald Elementary School, Maria de los Angeles Silva of Pahokee Middle-Senior High School, Cartheda Mann, of Glades Central High School and Gale Zavala of Gove Elementary School.

The winners will be announced at a banquet Friday, April 7 at the Palm Beach Gardens Marriott. Following are profiles of each of the nominees.



Deborah Clarke

Deborah Clarke, 49, Literacy Specialist at Rosenwald Elementary and nominee in the Elementary Division for the Economic Council's William Dwyer Award for excellence in education didn't plan to become a teacher. Instead, she was pursuing a career as a professional musician, working as a back up singer for Roy Clark and other artists. Then, a tragic car accident and the revelation of a family secret changed her plans.

A native of Virginia Beach, Va., Mrs. Clarke attended John Brown University on a full music scholarship and was the youngest member ever to be selected to join the university's traveling show group, "The Sound." Later, she deferred her expenses while performing as a back up singer for Roy Clark, Pat Boone, The Fifth Dimension, Kenny Rogers and others. She performed at Disneyland, The Country Music Awards, the White House, and still sees herself in regions of Hef Haw. A car crash in which she was seriously injured ended her musical career.

"It took so long to recover—everyone else was going on. I would have had to work so hard to make a name for myself I decided to reprise it," Mrs. Clarke said.

She received her bachelor of science degree in elementary education and taught in various public and private schools in Virginia for seven years before moving to Florida where her husband was transferred in 1990.

"When I was a senior in high school, I discovered that my father was illiterate. I always took it personally because he would never read anything I wrote, or when I tried to show him my report card he would always defer to my mother," Mrs. Clarke said, explaining what made her decide on a career as a teacher. "Here I am at a school with children with the same tendencies. That's why I stay in the area. It's so rewarding when you see these children achieve."

The biggest obstacle children in the Glades in general face and at Rosenwald in particular is the lack of prior education, Mrs. Clarke said. The nine-year veteran at Rosenwald will earn her masters degree from Nova University this summer.

"The experience that other children have, that we take for granted, they don't have the opportunity. The average child comes to school with a 5,000 word vocabulary. These children come to school with a 1,000 word vocabulary. You take what they have and build upon it. That's why it always looks like they're lagging behind."

Although Rosenwald has historically not fared well in the state's FCAT scoring, those numbers are improving. Mrs. Clarke says, and other measures indicate that the children she teaches are learning to read and write. A survey at the end of the first semester found that circulation at the school library has more than tripled.

"You show them the love of learning. To me the most important thing you can teach a child is how to read," Mrs. Clarke said, noting that books can open a world of adventure and experience to children who have never

traveled out of the Glades. "I'm a firm believer that any child can read, regardless of background. A good teacher is able to impart the particular skills," Mrs. Clarke said. "When the teacher has high expectations and gets joy from reading, it's contagious and I try to model that attitude to other teachers."

One of the keys to encouraging them to read is teaching them to problem solve, so that if they come across a word they don't know, they can break it up into smaller parts, sound it out, look at it in context and figure it out. She believes in teaching strategies and is not a fan of specific programs that have been promoted to teach children to read.

"Every program has its place, but programs come and go. They need to learn problem solving techniques and strategies they can use a life time. It's like teaching addition."

In early primary classes, when children are struggling with the text, she may tell them to look at the illustrations to see what they may tell the child about the story. The illustrator put meaning in the illustrations and they can guide the child into the meaning. You show them how to 'chunk' words, find the little word in a big word, sound it out."

Attitude, Mrs. Clarke said, is everything.

"A teacher has to be a performer. If you're animated and excited about what you're doing, you make it a real life experience for them," Mrs. Clarke said.

The literacy specialist position was her first attempt at teaching at-risk students, after having spent much of her career teaching gifted children at private schools.

"I didn't come into this position thinking they couldn't do it. I don't lower my expectations and they rise to the occasion."

"Initially, they know they can't read so they wouldn't try. I tell them you can do this, I'll show you how. Now they're no longer afraid to read a book," she said.

 **Maria de los Angeles Silva**, 31, ESL teacher and chair of the foreign language department at Pahokee Middle-Senior High School and nominee in the Middle School Division for the Economic Council William Dwyer award for excellence in education for her work as a teacher. A native of Belle Glade, born two years after her family immigrated from Cuba, her earliest memories involve acting as translator/interpreter for family members and friends.

A mailman in Cuba, who grew up on the family's farm, the only work Mrs. Silva's father, Angel Rodriguez, could find when he came to Belle Glade in 1966 was as a cowboy at Big B Ranch, which later became King Ranch. "He grew up on the family ranch—they weren't rich, but they were middle class—he'd always worked with animals, knew how to ride, how to lasso, then they moved to Havana and he became a mailman and my mother was a housewife," Mrs. Silva said. When they came to the United States, with no formal education that would easily translate to a professor here, Mr. Rodriguez became a cowboy and Mrs. Rodriguez went from being a housewife to working in the fields and the packing house at Duda.

"To this day they don't speak English fluently and they've been here 34 years," Mrs. Silva says of her parents, explaining that their emphasis was always on providing for their family, rather than on their own education. "I can remember as a little girl, people coming to our house and asking if they could borrow Maria to come translate for them and there I would go." When her parents had to take the test to earn their

United States citizenship, she sat down and taught them the 100 questions and answers on the test.

At the same time that she was improving her English skills, her mother made sure she valued and remembered her Hispanic heritage.

"My grandmother still lived in Cuba when I was little. I never had any formal education in Spanish until high school, but when my grandmother's letters would come, my mother would read them to me. I can remember sitting with a dictionary and writing back and mother bought me books in Spanish," Mrs. Silva said.

"I always loved the language my parents taught me at home," Mrs. Silva continues. "In college, as I studied Spanish language and literature, I wanted to import that love to young people."

She earned her bachelor's degree in language and linguistics at Florida Atlantic University and won the M.E.D. grant, sponsored by Dr. Carlos Diaz to earn her masters degree in education with cultural foundations.

As the child of immigrant parents, Mrs. Silva has much in common with her students, many of whom are immigrants from Mexico, Nicaragua, or Honduras. She also has two Haitian students and one from Bangladesh.

"They're very secure with me. I'm bilingual they have that little crutch—she can tell me this in Spanish—and I have to say, you need to do that in English."

"I've always believed all children can learn, but they all learn in different ways. The challenge for a teacher is finding that way," Mrs. Silva said. For the Hispanic students preparing for the FCAT, that might mean starting the writing process in Spanish, then working on the English. Sometimes it may not mean reading or writing at all, but working with art, playwriting, acting or singing—the goal being to teach students from diverse backgrounds to communicate and appreciate one another's cultures and heritage.

Besides teaching English as a second language, she has also taught Spanish and as department chair overseen the school's dual language program, designed as a magnet program to continue the bilingual education students are receiving at Gove Elementary.

"We have the first group who were taught English and Spanish together this year. In two years, we'll have the first group who have been taught both since kindergarten," Mrs. Silva said.

As department chair, Mrs. Silva has done grant writing to bring an exchange teacher, Juan Luis Lopez, from Mexico, and was involved in the district's recruitment of a Spanish teacher from Spain. She and the other teachers in the department, four of whom are now Hispanic, are considering the development of an exchange program for students.

Besides her work at school, Mrs. Silva sponsors the Foreign Language Club, which includes activities such as folkloric dance and foreign language fairs, as well as working with Father John's programs for migrant families at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Pahokee.

 **Cartheda Mann**, who teaches two gifted classes and a class for students with varying exceptionalities at Glades Central High School and nominee in the Special Education Division for the Economic Council William Dwyer award for excellence in education came to teaching after a career in journalism and the arts.

"I never thought I wanted to teach," Mrs. Mann said, instead focusing her careers around writing. A writer all her life, she began writing poetry to her mother at age 8—in free verse.

"I wasn't really good at conversation as a child," Mrs. Mann said, and although she describes herself as an inept writer journal keeper, she says she's the world's worst at remembering to take family photos because she chronicles moments in her journal, which she hopes some day to turn into the basis of a novel, "to everything there is a season."

A native of Belle Glade, the daughter of W.C. and Lavoise Taylor, owners of Taylor, Smith and West Funeral Home, she attended Fisk University, where she earned her bachelor's degree in general English, and received her master's degree in African American Studies with concentration in African American Literature from Boston University.

"I started out at the Palm Beach Post, but I wanted to write about what I wanted to write about and for me my assignments were rather proscribed," Mrs. Mann said.

Not knowing "what she wanted to be when she grew up," she said, she studied literature in graduate school because she always enjoyed other people's writing. "I enjoy well punctuated sentences, the use of words," she said.

When she came back to Belle Glade, a friend who taught advanced placement English at Glades Central invited her to share her knowledge of African American writers like Ralph Ellison and Zora Neale Hurston with her students.

Her love of Hurston, who was a frequent visitor to Belle Glade during her career—her most famous novel, "their eyes were watching God" is set in Belle Glade—led to the establishment of the Zora Neale Houston museum and her writing centered on grant writing, to seek funding for the museum, a job she continued when she became employed by the Arts Council.

The teaching slot at Glades Central came about almost by accident. "I attended a meeting for the gifted program—I had two children enrolled in it. They had no English teacher for the gifted program and a light went off in my head. I had raised two gifted children, so I thought, 'why not give it a shot.' She applied for the gifted endorsement courses being offered by the school board, and so her teaching career began."

"Now I'm satisfied. I see results in a different way. Children don't know the way their success or failure in life may depend on school; whether its intensive lessons in vocabulary, or analytical discussions of literature, because sometimes literature may be the only common ground that they can discuss with someone," Mrs. Mann said.

"It's a challenge every single day. One reason I thought I'd never become a teacher is that I didn't have the patience," she said, but she's been able to use her parenting skills to help her become a better teacher.

Students in her VE class come at different levels—some not knowing simple words. She works with them teaching basic vocabulary and trying to instill a love of reading for relaxation and recreation.

All other lessons weave in and out of vocabulary. "I try to show them that words are the sum of their component parts—that they can 'decode' words they don't understand."

Being African-American in a school where the majority of her students are African American establishes some common ground, Mrs. Mann said, and her background in African-American literature helps her to find material that her students are interested in. "Children value the educational experience more if they see themselves in it—when they read literature they're looking for bits and pieces of themselves, and even my Hispanic students seem to identify more with the African-American literature than with the more mainstream classical literature," Mrs. Mann said.

The empathy that she has gained from writing is also helpful. "If I can do a character sketch, if I understand what motivated Romeo to fall in love at first sight, then that helps prepare me to deal with human beings and what motivates them."

"I try to treat them as individuals. Many of my students are learning disabled or emotionally handicapped. They feel 'less than' even if they can't articulate it. They shy away from different things because they're afraid of being laughed at," she said. So beyond the curriculum, she tries to talk to them about values. "In a world where children don't respect enough, you help them understand respect. I don't let them get away with infractions, but I only wrote my second discipline referral in four years Friday. I try to teach them conflict resolution. Students know when you care about them."



Gale Zavala, who teaches students with varying exceptionalities at Gove Elementary School and is a nominee in the Special Education Division for the Economic Council William Dwyer award for excellence in education began her 15 year career at Gove as a speech pathologist.

A native of California, she earned her degree in speech pathology from San Jose State University.

"Way back in high school, I volunteered to work for Catholic Charities," she said, when asked how she became interested in special education. "Everyone has someone in their family with some kind of exceptionality. My husband's cousin had a Down's Syndrome child—that got me interested in it. Later you find either really like it, or you gear yourself to some other area of education."

When her husband, who works for the airline industry, was transferred to Fort Lauderdale, she found a home at Gove.

"Being of Mexican American ancestry, I feel more at home in this community, than Wellington, where I live," Mrs. Zavala said. "I feel like I have an impact on children, even if they're not assigned to my class."

Mrs. Zavala has spearheaded a number of projects at Gove, including the "Planet Patrol" recycling project and the in-school mail program which provide opportunities for the disabled students in her class to work with the general student population, taking teaching outside the traditional classroom.

"By conducting instruction within the natural context of functional activities such as gardening, recycling or other pre-vocational projects I have seen my students make remarkable gains," Mrs. Zavala said. "This not only prepares them for future community roles, it also enlightens the non-disabled population of the

achievements of students who are mentally and physically challenged. One of the greatest rewards in teaching has been to witness non-disabled students learn to accept the difference and acknowledge what they have in common with their disabled peers."

"My students and the non-disabled students at our school share many common interests and activities. They can be seen working together side-by-side in their classrooms, sorting letters for the in-school mail program, playing musical instruments together for a holiday concert, collaborating on service projects, assisting each other with school wide recycling or just having a good time together or a field trip," Mrs. Zavala said.

Mrs. Zavala said her mission as an educator is to continue to help all children be the best they can be and to be supportive of one another. Toward that end, she stresses teaching children cooperation and conflict resolution skills, which she considers "as important as spelling and science in developing a child as a whole individual."

Besides encouraging cooperation among students, the different extracurricular projects also encourage developing new skills. Through the in-school mail program, students are improving their writing skills and staff members such as cafeteria workers, secretaries and custodians have been included as letter writers and are contributing to the effort to improve literacy at the school.

In addition to her work with students, Mrs. Zavala stays in constant contact with the parents of her students, making phone calls, sending home notes, preparing a weekly newsletter. Those efforts have helped encourage parents to volunteer at the school, whether working in the classrooms, on field trips or networking with other parents of special needs children.

"Encouraging parents to be an active part of the school is a mutually rewarding situation," Mrs. Zavala said. "Being present in the classroom provides an opportunity for the parent to observe motivating activities to improve academic skills and learn alternative behavior modification techniques. The teacher gains a valuable set of hands in the classroom and the chance to share ideas and information with parents."

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